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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating a security object for use in
5 securing an item, comprising:
 receiving security object data;
 setting one or more attributes associated with the
security object data, wherein the one or more attributes
include a user designation of a security object type; and
10 encapsulating the security object data and the one or
more attributes with one or more methods, wherein the
security object is used to control access to secured
contents.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining the
one or more methods from a security object class.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more methods
operate on the security object data and one or more
20 attributes.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more methods
operate on the security object data and input data passed to
the security object.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the security object data
is one of textual data, audio data, graphical data, and
biometric data.
- 30 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the security object type
is one of a single use security object, a group security
object, a timed security object, a concurrent multi-user

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security object, a security object throttle, a translated password security object, a security object augmented by a at least one of a CPU identifier, a CPU speed and a system configuration, a Wave file or MP3 security object, an image
 5 file security object, a security object augmented by a location of the user, a security object augmented by a current window and/or pointer position, a security object augmented by an IP address, a security object augmented by a screen background characteristic, a security object
 10 augmented by a personal identification number one of a speed of a card swipe and a number of times of a card swipe, a security object augmented by a mobile telephone ring or mobile telephone identification number, a security object augmented by a caller identification of the user, and a
 15 security object augmented by an environmental condition.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 providing the security object to a security system,
 wherein the security system is not made aware of the
 20 security object type.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the security system invokes the security object in response to a request for access by the user.
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9. The method of claim 1, storing the security object data on an electronic medium in a device with data transmission capability.

30 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the device is a portable device.

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11. The method of claim 9, wherein the portable device is one of a keychain, a portable MP3 player, a mobile telephone, a pager, an electronic wrist watch, a remote control, a garage door transmitter, a keyless entry device
5 for a vehicle, a smartcard, and a magnetic stripe card.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the security object contains a partial set of methods and wherein the security system contains a complementary set of methods.

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13. The method of claim 1, wherein the security object requires hardware assistance for authentication of input data passed to the security object.

15 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the security object data is received from a client apparatus.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the security object data is received from a user via a user interface.

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16. The method of claim 15, wherein the user interface is a security object foundry application resident on a computing device.

25 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the user interface is an interface transmitted from a server apparatus to a client apparatus.

18. A computer program product in a computer readable
30 medium for generating a security object for use in securing an item, comprising:

first instructions for receiving security object data;

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second instructions for setting one or more attributes associated with the security object data, wherein the one or more attributes include a user designation of a security object type; and

5 third instructions for encapsulating the security object data and the one or more attributes with one or more methods, wherein the security object is used to control access to secured contents.

10 19. The computer program product of claim 18, fourth instructions for obtaining the one or more methods from a security object class.

20. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the
15 one or more methods operate on the security object data and one or more attributes.

21. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the
20 one or more methods operate on the security object data and input data passed to the security object.

22. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the security object data is one of textual data, audio data, graphical data, and biometric data.

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23. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the security object type is one of a single use security object, a group security object, a timed security object, a concurrent multi-user security object, a security object
30 throttle, a translated password security object, a security object augmented by a at least one of a CPU identifier, a CPU speed and a system configuration, a Wave file or MP3

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security object, an image file security object, a security object augmented by a location of the user, a security object augmented by a current window and/or pointer position, a security object augmented by an IP address, a
5 security object augmented by a screen background characteristic, a security object augmented by a personal identification number and one of a speed of a card swipe and a number of times of a card swipe, a security object augmented by a mobile telephone ring or mobile telephone
10 identification number, a security object augmented by a caller identification of the user, and a security object augmented by an environmental condition.

24. The computer program product of claim 18, further
15 comprising:

fourth instructions for providing the security object to a security system, wherein the security system is not made aware of the security object type.

20 25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the security system invokes the security object in response to a request for access by the user.

26. The computer program product of claim 18, further
25 comprising fourth instructions for storing the security object data on an electronic medium in a device with data transmission capability.

27. The computer program product of claim 18, further
30 comprising fourth instructions for storing the security object data in a portable device.

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31. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the security object data is received from a client apparatus.

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35. An apparatus for generating a security object for use in securing an item, comprising:

means for setting one or more attributes associated

means for encapsulating the security object data and the one or more attributes with one or more methods, wherein
10 the security object is used to control access to secured contents.

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20 38. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the one or more
methods operate on the security object data and input data
passed to the security object.

40. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the security object type is one of a single use security object, a group
30 security object, a timed security object, a concurrent multi-user security object, a security object throttle, a translated password security object, a security object

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augmented by a at least one of a CPU identifier, a CPU speed
and a system configuration, a Wave file or MP3 security
object, an image file security object, a security object
augmented by a location of the user, a security object
5 augmented by a current window and/or pointer position, a
security object augmented by an IP address, a security
object augmented by a screen background characteristic, a
security object augmented by a personal identification
number and one of a speed of a card swipe and a number of
10 times of a card swipe, a security object augmented by a
mobile telephone ring or mobile telephone identification
number, a security object augmented by a caller
identification of the user, and a security object augmented
by an environmental condition.

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41. The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising:

means for providing the security object to a security
system, wherein the security system is not made aware of the
security object type.

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42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the security system
invokes the security object in response to a request for
access by the user.

25 43. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for
storing the security object data on an electronic medium in
a device with data transmission capability.

30 44. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the device is a
portable device.

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45. The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the portable device is one of a keychain, a portable MP3 player, a mobile telephone, a pager, an electronic wrist watch, a remote control, a garage door transmitter, a keyless entry device
5 for a vehicle, a smartcard, and a magnetic stripe card.

46. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the security object contains a partial set of methods and wherein the security system contains a complementary set of methods.

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47. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the security object requires hardware assistance for authentication of input data passed to the security object.

15 48. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the security object data is received from a client apparatus.

49. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the security object data is received from a user via a user interface.

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50. The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the user interface is a security object foundry application resident on a computing device.

25 51. The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the user interface is an interface transmitted from a server apparatus to a client apparatus.

52. A method of securing contents, comprising:

30 receiving a request for access to the contents, the request including input data;

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in response to receiving the request for access,
retrieving the a user defined security object;

applying the user defined security object to the input
data; and

- 5 controlling access to the contents based on the
application of the user defined security object to the input
data.

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